

changed existing laws to allow the winery to be established.

"Even though [the winery] was a controversial decision, history has proved Joe right, and the Lynfred Winery in the old Fenz house has brought us fame and recognition," Smolinski said.

A member of Roselle's St. Walter's Catholic Church, Devlin has been a friend since 1954 to its pastor, Rev. Francis McDonald, who says Devlin's involvement with the church has easily matched his community contributions.

"Joe is one of the founding members of the parish, and he has been involved with our administration committee for many years," McDonald said. "He helped with our church's recent renovation and is working with us now on the new parish center gym we're planning to build. To me, his knowledge of the village here and the people has been invaluable. And he's a very humble man."

Devlin, who will celebrate his 76th birthday in January, appears to be far from slowing down. He recently began his fifth term as a village trustee, a job he has held for 16 years since stepping down as mayor. He plays golf once a week, rides a bicycle and plays racquetball and handball. Devlin said he recently taught himself to play left handed because arthritis and bursitis have limited the mobility of his right shoulder.

"[Public Works Director] Rob Burns played Joe in handball a few weeks ago," Weaver said. "Rob's a jogger and is in great shape, and he has to be 25 years younger. The day after they played, Rob was telling us how Joe just beat the ever-living tar out of him. The poor guy was really beat up."

VOTE CLARIFICATION ON ISTOOK AMENDMENT IN THE LABOR, HHS APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to clarify my position with regard to two votes I made on September 9, 1997. The votes were rollcall Nos. 378 and 379, concerning Mr. ISTOOK's amendment No. 3 to the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1998. My vote on rollcall No. 378, Mr. CASTLE's substitute to Mr. ISTOOK's amendment, was recorded as aye. I pressed the incorrect button and my vote should have been no. In regard to rollcall vote 379, my vote was recorded correctly as opposing Mr. ISTOOK's amendment as amended by Mr. CASTLE's substitute. My position has been quite clear in the past with regard to Federal funding under title X of the Public Health Service Act. The fact that a doctor must have parental permission to give a minor an aspirin, but not contraceptives is bewildering to me. Even though it was defeated, I am in support of Mr. ISTOOK's language, and will continue in the future to maintain the position that a child and parent relationship should not be undermined by legislative means.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE ON THE DEATH OF MOTHER TERESA OF CALUTTA

SPEECH OF

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 1997

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, over 50 years ago, Mother Teresa left a comfortable teaching position at a Catholic high school to personally care for the beggars, lepers, and homeless on the streets of Calcutta. She began alone, following the call of the Cross, but her example inspired thousands to join her in service in 25 countries around the world.

I have often told the story of a news reporter who followed Mother Teresa for a few days as she worked among Calcutta's dead and dying, cleaning their sores and comforting them in their last days. Finally the exasperated reporter asked her how she could possibly continue, with more dead and dying every day, saying "You cannot possibly succeed!" "I was not called to succeed," Mother Teresa quietly replied. "I was called to serve."

Being present to see Mother Teresa receive the Congressional Medal of Honor earlier this year was one of the most memorable moments of my life. As she said, "The world today is hungry not only for bread but hungry for love."

Though she was less than 5 feet tall, her humble, unwavering devotion to the truth made her a towering giant of the 20th century. She was the most Christ-like person of this era; the embodiment of Matthew 20:26.

THE FREEDOM FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION ACT OF 1997

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on International Relations met last week to hear testimony on H.R. 2431 (formerly H.R. 1685), the Freedom From Religious Persecution Act of 1997.

The long list of witnesses heard by the committee is a reflection of the strong interest generated by this legislation among human rights groups and religious and public policy organizations nationwide.

For those of my colleagues who have not yet had an opportunity to study this bill, I want to share a letter submitted to the committee for inclusion in the hearing record from the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

I hope my colleagues will find this thoughtful statement useful as the debate on this legislation moves forward:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA

To: Members of the House International Relations Committee.

From: Oliver Thomas, NCCC Special Counsel.

Re: Freedom From Religious Persecution Act (H.R. 1685/S.772).

Date: September 8, 1997.

Senator Arlin Specter (R-PA) and Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA) have intro-

duced legislation (H.R. 1685/S. 772) to address the persecution of Christians overseas. Mr. Wolf has written to the General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (NCCC) soliciting the NCCC's support for his bill.

There are a number of reasons why the NCCC and its member communions cannot support the Wolf/Specter bills as they are currently written, but should continue to pray and to take action to end religious persecution on their own terms. That is to say, the NCCC should remain true to its calling to seek justice and peace for all people and to carry on its work and witness in a manner consistent with its own responsibility as an American institution and its own understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As the nation's oldest and largest national ecumenical body, the NCCC must continue to emphasize the importance of bearing collective witness to religious liberty. This means working cooperatively with Jews, Muslims and other faith communities as well as with those in the Christian community. Our conversations with those in other faith communities indicate that many have strong reservations about Mr. Wolf's bill.

Before addressing the specifics of H.R. 1685, I would point out that the persecution of Christians must be viewed in the larger context of religious persecution and human rights abuses. God's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves compels us to seek religious freedom for all—not just for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We, therefore, embrace the Universal Declaration of Rights which states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

Second, I could not agree more about the need for focused, fervent prayer on behalf of the persecuted members of God's human family. Far from silent, the NCCC and its international counterpart, the World Council of Churches, have long participated in prayer on behalf of our Christian brothers and sisters who suffer persecution. That is why, for example, we support the World Day of Prayer Against Religious Persecution sponsored by the World Evangelical Fellowship, and the International Cycle of Prayer developed through the World Council of Churches.

Turning to the specifics of H.R. 1685/S. 772, I begin with one aspect of the bill that warrants our support.

Reports—Annual reports on religious persecution abroad are extremely useful to the United States Government as well as to the general public. Americans need to know when foreign regimes are guilty of human rights abuses in order that we may respond accordingly. Fortunately, the State Department has begun this practice.

Aspects of the bill to which we are opposed include:

1. Creation of the Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring in the White House—The NCCC General Secretary has stated that the U.S. government office charged with primary responsibility for addressing religious persecution should, in so far as possible, be insulated from partisan political pressure. For that reason, we would oppose any suggestion that those who monitor religious persecution should be located in the White House. We believe that the persons best able and most qualified to monitor and report on religious persecution are at the State Department as the recent report "United States Policies In Support Of Religious Freedom: Focus On Christians" demonstrates. We also support the use of an advisory committee reflecting